



# Department of Justice

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## **DEFENDANT CONVICTED FOR METHAMPHETAMINE "ICE" TRAFFICKING**

### **SUPPLIED 25 TO 30 POUNDS OF "ICE" TO BALDWIN COUNTY**

MOBILE, Ala. -Gabriel Lopez, a 35- year- old illegal alien from Mexico living in Pensacola and working in Elberta was convicted yesterday in federal court for conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and distribution of methamphetamine. Gabriel Lopez, who was previously deported from the United States under the name of Antonio Sandoval Renteria, worked as a welder in this area since 2004, but evidence produced during the two-day trial established that he and some of his family members, also here illegally, supplied from 25 to 30 pounds of methamphetamine to local residents for distribution in Baldwin County.

"Methamphetamine is one of the most harmful drugs on the street. It is a scourge that ruins lives," said U.S. Attorney Deborah Rhodes.

The methamphetamine, in its more potent "ice" form, was reportedly brought into this area from Mexico. Lopez farmed the drugs out to local distributors through his family members and others. One of his conspirators, who initially acted as a translator and later as a courier, Oliverio Villeda, testified that he received the drugs from Lopez and returned thousands of dollars in drug proceeds to Lopez. The prosecution produced page after page of drug notes kept by Villeda and recovered incident to Villeda's arrest which documented drug debts in amounts like \$38,800 and \$23,500. All the drug money was delivered to Lopez personally, or to one of his brothers when Lopez was in Mexico. Trial testimony established that Lopez charged \$17,000 per pound of methamphetamine ice.

Lopez faces a mandatory sentence of 10 years and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. United States District Court Judge William H. Steele presided over the trial and set the sentencing for January 17, 2007. Lopez has been detained in federal custody since his arrest.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gloria Bedwell. The case was investigated by the Baldwin County Drug Task Force, the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office and the DEA HIDTA Task Force.